

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 16, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 1, 2006

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

## ASSEMBLY BILL

**No. 2802**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Pavley**

February 24, 2006

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An act to add Section 44265.2 to the Education Code, relating to teacher credentialing.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2802, as amended, Pavley. Teacher credentialing: optional early childhood education credential.

Existing law requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to, among other things, establish professional standards, assessments, and examinations for entry and advancement in the education profession. Existing law requires the commission to award specified types of credentials to applicants whose preparation and competence satisfy its standards, including credentials for teaching specialties that include, among others, early childhood education.

This bill would require the commission to establish an optional early childhood education credential for kindergarten and grades 1 and 2 that is to be built into the multiple subject teaching credential and would *provide that the teaching authorization of an early childhood education credential is equivalent to the full multiple subject teaching credential, except that there is to be a statement on the multiple subject teaching credential that the individual has completed an early childhood education emphasis.* The bill would require the optional credential to consist of 24 units of early learning training—to be

determined by the commission and the State Department of Education, as specified. The bill would provide that these units of early learning training are to be ~~built~~ incorporated into the existing multiple subject teaching credential program and are not to add more units to that program.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.

State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 44265.2 is added to the Education  
2 Code, to read:

3 44265.2. (a) The commission shall establish an optional early  
4 childhood education credential for kindergarten and grades 1 and  
5 2 that shall be ~~built~~ incorporated into the multiple subject  
6 teaching credential. *The teaching authorization of an early*  
7 *childhood education credential is equivalent to the full multiple*  
8 *subject teaching credential, except that there shall be a statement*  
9 *on the multiple subject teaching credential that the individual has*  
10 *completed an early childhood education emphasis.*

11 (b) The optional early childhood education credential shall  
12 consist of 24 units of early learning training ~~to be determined by~~  
13 ~~the commission and the department~~ of which 12 units shall be of  
14 college or university, which may include community college,  
15 coursework in early childhood education and 12 units shall  
16 contain an emphasis in early childhood education within the  
17 multiple subject teacher preparation program to be incorporated  
18 into the program based on standards to be developed by the  
19 commission with input from experts in early childhood education.  
20 However, these units of early learning training shall be ~~built~~  
21 incorporated into the existing multiple subject teaching  
22 credential program and shall not add more units to that program.

23 (c) The purpose of the early childhood education credential is  
24 to provide teachers with the option of selecting a specialized  
25 early childhood education credential for kindergarten and grades  
26 1 and 2 to improve the quality of instruction for young children,  
27 as the skills necessary to successfully teach young pupils differs  
28 greatly from the skills necessary to teach middle school pupils.

- 1 The benefits include improved pupil performance and making
- 2 teachers more marketable in an area of teaching they enjoy.

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